(d) whether such channels are proposed to be set up with other foreign countries also and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (d) Proposals for industrial collaboration between India and Japan are considered by approval committees like Foreign Investment Board (FIB) and Project Approval Board (PAB) etc. Within the broad framework of foreign collaboration policy, an informal Indo-Japan Group set up in the Department of Economic Affairs meets at regular intervals with a view to facilitating greater Indo-Japanese co-operation. A similar procedure has also been adopted in respect of West German technical tie-ups.

It is the constant endeavour of Government to clear expeditiously all foreign collaboration proposals.

Tapping of telephones

3699. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the State Governments which have been carrying out tapping of telephones in their respective States during the last three years; and

(b) the designation of the State Government officials who have written to the Central Government in regard thereto and the dates on which such requests were made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Settlement of Bhopal gas leak claims

3700. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' of the 29th July, 1988 to the effect that an American Court has ruled that neither the Indian Governmnet nor a Court in India can restrict the power of Indian citizens to settle Bhopal gas leak claims in USA which is a jurisdictional confrontation between the Courts of India and USA; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGALRAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Superior Court, Judicial District of Fairfield at Bridgeport, Connecticut, has decided that India is not an indispensable party in the litigation before that Court. Therefore, it also observed that the plaintiffs in the case before the Court and Union Carbide can enter into settlement negotiations under the directions of that Court. The Court has also observed that it does not have to recognise the Bhopal Act.

Following the decision of Judge Keenan for sending back the Bhopal case to the competent Court in India, after Union Carbide submitted to the jurisdiction of the Court, Government had initiated proceedings in the Court of District Judge, Bhopal, which is being pursued vigorously. In fact on an application filed by the Government in the Court of District Judge Bhopal, the Court has passed an interim order directing Union Carbide Corporation not to make any settlement or compromise with any individual claimant.